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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Assistant Director, Research and Reports
VIA : Chief, Geographic Research
FROM : Chief, Geography Division

DATE: 18 March 1955

SUBJECT: Evaluation of CIA/RR-G-12, The European Borders of the USSR

1. This report describes the entire western border of the USSR as an obstacle to penetration to/or escape from the Soviet Union. It is an excellent and adequate summary of the basic information about this segment of the Iron Curtain that will be of use to several agencies in analyzing current information on this subject.

2. The purpose of the report is to discuss the more or less permanent features of the boundary--its history, physical description and general administration and security measures. The best available maps are also recommended. The author has examined a wide variety of sources, including both printed sources and intelligence documents. It is believed that the coverage includes all the significant information except for strictly current and transitory material.

3. The manuscript represents a prodigious amount of research and displays the ability of the compiler to pull together many divergent types of information into a unified whole.

4. The report should be given fairly high priority. It should be of considerable use to workers in other portions of the Agency and the Intelligence components of the armed forces and the Department of State.

5. The collection of materials and the organizational problems involved in a report concerned with the border areas of the USSR were most complex and necessitated a revised estimate of the total time involved.

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DOCUMENT NO. 2
NO CHANGE IN CLASS. ☐
☐ DECLASSIFIED
CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS S
NEXT REVIEW DATE: 1989
AUTH: HR 70-2
DATE: 3/26/79 REVIEWER: 008514

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